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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

News Release

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Office of the Prosecuting Attorney awarded grant funds to tackle drug house problem

LIHUE – The County of Kaua'i Office of the Prosecuting Attorney has been selected to receive a grant award from Hawai'i's 2015 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to establish a Drug Nuisance Abatement Unit.

The funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Justice and administered via a competitive grant process by the State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division. The grant will provide \$130,100 during the upcoming year to provide for investigative and clerical resources to assist the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney in building and prosecuting nuisance abatement cases to close down drug houses in the Kaua'i community.

Prosecuting Attorney Justin F. Kollar stated, "The number one complaint I receive from our citizens is that law enforcement does not act swiftly enough to address the longstanding problem of drug houses in our neighborhoods. This will be a big step towards addressing that. We are grateful to our partner agencies for providing these vital resources and we are serious about addressing these important quality of life concerns in our neighborhoods."

The Drug Nuisance Abatement Unit will consist of investigative, clerical and attorney resources and will focus on using state nuisance abatement laws to seek injunctions to close down houses where drug trafficking type behavior is taking place.

“Chapter 712 of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes gives us the power to go quickly and directly after the tenants, landlords, or owners of these houses and require them to take care of the problem or face eviction, contempt charges, financial liens, or more serious consequences,” Kollar stated. “It’s been used effectively in Hawai‘i County and its time to bring this tool here to Kaua‘i.”

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